

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF LUDLOW

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1968



PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

Elizabeth Capper, M. B. Ch.B., D. P. H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

Ronald F. Saunders, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Additional Public Health Inspector

G. S. Banks, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors

L. D. Cowell, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
J. G. Gosnell, M.A.P.H.I.

Meat Inspectors

R. S. Tong
D. Mills
B. Lawson
B. Reddy resigned March, 1968

Clerk/Typist

Miss R. Bebbington

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Rural District Council Offices,

Ludlow.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

1968

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the report on the health of Ludlow Rural District in 1968.

A study of the Vital Statistics indicate a healthy community and they compare quite favourably with National Figures. A slight fall in the illegitimate birth rate should be noted, also the fact that there were no illegitimate still births or infant deaths.

Cancer of the lung, and accidents, caused 30 deaths i.e. 9% of all the deaths: these ought to be largely preventable.

There is still a lot of work to be done: in Ludlow Borough it is largely slum clearance and provision of new houses and in the rural areas provision of water and sewerage. Plans are in hand but much has to be held in abeyance until the present financial position is more favourable.

I should like to thank all my colleagues in the Council offices for their willing and happy co-operation during the year and to thank Mr. Saunders especially for his help during the year on preparing this report.

Elizabeth Capper.

V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S 1 9 6 8

Live Births

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Number	161	167	328
Rate per 1,000 population			13.8
Standardised Birth Rate			15.46

Illegitimate Live Births

Number	10	3	13
Per cent of total live births			4.0

Still Births

Number			6
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			17.9

Total Live and Still Births

334

Infant Death (deaths under 1 year)

5 3 8

Infant Mortality Rates

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			24
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			25.4
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			0

Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births			12.2
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Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate

Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births			6.1
---------------------------------------------------	--	--	-----

Perinatal Mortality Rate

Still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 live and still births			24
------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	----

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Number of Deaths			0
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Deaths from all causes

171 169 340

Death Rate per 1,000 population

14.3

Standard Death Rate

11.73

SECTION 'A'

General Statistics and Notes on Vital Statistics

Estimated mid year population	23,700
Area in acres	120,451
Population per acre	.19
Rateable value	£733,009

Births

The number of live births (328) was a little lower than the number last year (375) and the percentage of illegitimate live births was down a little.

The standardised birth rate this year is .91 of the national rate.

Still Births

There were 6 still births and the still birth rate is practically the same as for last year.

Infant Mortality

There were 8 infant deaths giving an infant mortality rate of 24, which is an improvement on last year's higher figure of 29.

Perinatal Mortality

There were 2 deaths under one week of age and six still births and this gave a perinatal mortality rate of 24 - this again is an improvement on last year's higher figure of 34.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths.

Deaths

The total number of deaths was 340. The standardised Death Rate of 11.73 is just under the national rate (.99).

Diseases of heart and circulation (87 male 107 female) caused 57% of the deaths, cancer and leukaemia (male 36 female 20) caused 17% and respiratory diseases (male 13 female 21) caused 10% of the deaths. These percentages vary very little from year to year.

There were 9 deaths from cancer of the lung - all male - in the following age groups:-

55-65 years -	6
65-75 years -	2
75& over	1

Last year there were 8 deaths from cancer of the lung.

Motor vehicle and other accidents and suicide caused 22 deaths (Male 15 female 7) - i.e. 6.5% of all deaths. Last year they caused 4.2% of deaths.

Numbers of deaths at different periods of life

		<u>Age in years</u>									
	<u>Under 4 weeks</u>	<u>4 weeks and under 1 year</u>	<u>1-</u>	<u>5-</u>	<u>15-</u>	<u>25-</u>	<u>35-</u>	<u>45-</u>	<u>55-</u>	<u>65-</u>	<u>75 &over</u>
Male	3	2	-	5	3	1	4	8	37	33	75
Female	1	2	1	-	1	-	1	10	10	38	105

<u>Causes of death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal diseases	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1
Malignant diseases stomach	4	2
Malignant diseases lung	9	-
Malignant diseases breast	1	3
Leukaemia	3	-
Other malignant diseases	18	15
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	-
Diabetes mellitus	-	2
Other endocrine diseases	1	1
Anaemias	1	-
Other diseases of nervous system	4	1
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	-
Hypertensive disease	1	-
Ischaemic heart disease	52	52
Other forms of heart disease	10	9
Cerebrovascular disease	16	42
Other diseases of circulatory system	7	4
Pneumonia	5	12
Bronchitis and emphysema	7	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2
Peptic ulcer	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system	2	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	2	1
Congenital anomalies	-	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	1	0
Symptoms and illdefined conditions	3	4
Motor vehicle accidents	5	0
All other accidents	9	6
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	1

This year the number of deaths exceeded the number of births by 12, whereas last year the number of births exceeded the deaths by 42.

The estimated mid year population of 23,700 which is an increase of 220 during the last year.

<u>Vital Statistics</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>	<u>Ludlow R.D.C.</u>
Live birth rate	16.9	13.8
Still birth rate	14.0	17.9
Death rate	11.9	11.73
Infant mortality rate	18.0	24.0
Neo natal mortality rate	12.3	12.2
Early neo natal mortality rate	10.5	6.1
Perinatal mortality rate	25.0	24.0

S E C T I O N ' B '

General Provision of the Health Services

Staff

The Medical Officer of Health has two sessions per week for District Duties, the days varying to fit in with Committee and Council Meetings. If needed in an emergency she can be found by application to the County Health Office, Shirehall, Shrewsbury - Telephone 52211 Shrewsbury. In non-urgent cases a message should be left at the Public Health Department.

The meat inspector who left during the year was not replaced for the time being. Due to re-arrangements of work at the slaughterhouse this has been made possible with the Public Health Inspectors undertaking some meat inspector's duties. Replacement may prove to be necessary later.

It has been possible to catch up to a great extent in the back log of routine inspections within the Borough by having an Additional Public Health Inspector since last year.

Laboratory Facilities

These are available at the Public Health Laboratory, Royal Salop Infirmary free of charge to us. Drinking waters and swimming bath waters are tested regularly, and specimens from suspected food poisoning cases are examined there. Dr. Jones and his staff are always most willing to give help and advice.

Ambulance Service

The station in Craven Arms serves this area and provides transport for the conveyance of persons who require it, because of illness, mental subnormality, or maternity needs, to places either within or outside the area. An ambulance is normally obtained through a general practitioner or a hospital but in cases of accident it should be called for immediately by making an emergency 999 telephone call. Valuable time should not be wasted in serious cases by trying to get a doctor first.

Child Welfare Centres

These are held as follows:-

Cliftonville, Dinham, Ludlow	Mondays	1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
*East Hamlet, Ludlow	Thursdays	1.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
Parish Hall, Cleobury Mortimer	1st & 3rd Wednesdays	2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.
Sylvester Horne Institute, Church Stretton	1st & 3rd Thursdays	2.0 p.m. - 4.30 p.m.
*Clee Hill Village Hall	1st Wednesdays	2.0 p.m. - 4.0 p.m.

* There is a doctor present only on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at East Hamlet and no doctor attends Clee Hill Centre

Other clinics are held by appointment at Dinham, Ludlow for dental treatment, ante natal care, mother craft and relaxation, child guidance, speech therapy, audiology and cervical cytology.

A geriatric clinic was commenced at the beginning of the year but had to close because of lack of support. The old people did not like having to get undressed even though helped by Red Cross voluntary workers and more important they were disappointed when they found they were not to have their glasses changed, false teeth dealt with etc. on the spot. Most of those who did attend were already attending their general practitioner for treatment for their disorders. Those whom we really wanted to contact would not come, nor go to their doctors.

Health Visitors

There are three full time Health Visitors working in the area, one of whom also works outside the area.

District Nurses & Midwives

All the area is covered by District Nurse Midwives, several part time workers helping the full time ones.

The night rota scheme for midwifery in the Craven Arms, Church Stretton and Clun and Bishops Castle area proved satisfactory. All night calls for midwives in these areas should be made to the County Ambulance Depot, Shrewsbury 6331. The Ludlow midwives joined the rota in July, 1968.

Home Helps

The full charge for a home help went up to 6/7d. an hour, but the charge is adjusted according to means. Only one home help was requested for maternity cases.

There was no shortage of Home Helps during the year.

Provision of Nursing Equipment, including incontinence pads

A variety of equipment can be obtained on loan from the County Health Department.

Care of Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Children

This work is done by the Moral Welfare Workers who are employed by the Hereford Diocesan Association.

Venereal Disease Clinic

Belmont, Shrewsbury

Males	Tuesdays and Fridays	6.0 p.m. - 8 p.m.
Females	Mondays	3.30p.m. - 5.30 p.m.
	Thursdays	5.0 p.m. - 7.0 p.m.

Family Planning Clinics

The nearest clinics are held at Leominster, Hereford, Kidderminster and Shrewsbury. Details can be obtained from Family Doctors or Child Welfare Centres.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47

No compulsory removals were undertaken under this section.

Voluntary Community Service by Young People

The Government have promoted the establishment of an independent body to provide an advisory and consultancy service - the Young Volunteer Force Foundation - the whole idea being to co-ordinate and encourage voluntary community service by young people.

Old People's Welfare

A lot of work in this field is done by pupils from the secondary schools in Ludlow and they send a representative to the Old People's Welfare Committee. This Committee is formed by representatives from most local organisations and tries to co-ordinate the work done.

The luncheon club in Ludlow has proved a great success - there are about 50 people on roll but the average attendance is about 25.

Efforts were made to start a similar club in Clee Hill but it has not been possible to find suitable premises up to now.

The Club and the Meals on Wheels are run by the W.R.V.S. who provide an invaluable service both from a nutritional and social standpoint.

Functions of the Ministry of Health

The Ministry of Health was dissolved on 1st November and its functions and those of the Ministry of Social Security were transferred to a new Department of Health and Social Security.

Health Education Council

This was set up at the beginning of the year and the activities of the Central Council for Health Education are being integrated with it.

S E C T I O N ' C '

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

(a) Water Supply

The frequency of sampling was continued as in previous years.

(b) Purity of Supplies

The undermentioned samples were taken, for bacteriological examination from public supplies in the area. The public supplies are under the control of Water Boards and were in the main satisfactory.

<u>Source</u>	<u>Total No. of samples</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Bitterley	6	6	0
Burford (a) West (E.S.W.B.)	8	8	0
(b) East (E.S.W.B.)	14	12	2
(c) North (N.W.W.W.B.)	9	5	4
Bushmoor and Wistanstow	7	7	0
Church Stretton (Including All and Little Stretton)	63	53	10
Clee Hill and Knowbury	7	7	0
Clee St. Margaret (a) Bore	1	0	1
(b) Village Well	3	2	1
Cleobury Mortimer	32	28	4
Coreley (Including Joint High Level)	11	9	2
Craven Arms	27	23	4
Diddlebury	4	3	1
Far Forest (a) N.W.W.W.B.	2	2	0
(b) E.S.W.B.	2	2	0
Hope Bowdler	7	2	5
Longville-in-the-Dale	3	3	0
Ludlow (a) Low Level	27	27	0
(b) High Level including Sheet area	40	37	3
Middleton	8	6	2
Munslow	7	5	2
Onibury	8	5	3
South Eastern Parishes (Caynham area)	7	6	1
Seifton	12	8	4
Soudley	5	4	1
Stoke St. Milborough and Clee St. Margaret	7	7	0
Wall-under-Heywood	9	7	2
Totals	336	284	52

NOTATION: E.S.W.B. East Shropshire Water Board
N.W.W.W.B. North West Worcestershire Water Board

(c) Details of the number of properties and persons supplied with mains water are as follows:-

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Direct to House</u>		<u>Served by Standpipe</u>	
	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Population</u>
Abdon	4	10	-	-
Acton Scott	20	49	-	-
Ashford Bowdler	17	42	-	-
Ashford Carbonell	85	212	-	-
Bitterley	111	275	-	-
Boraston	58	145	-	-
Bromfield	61	153	-	-
Burford	115	267	-	-
Caynham	298	745	3	8
Church Stretton	1,145	3,316	-	-
Clee St. Margaret	31	77	-	-
Cleobury Mortimer	465	1,365	-	-
Coreley	111	277	-	-
Culmington	115	287	-	-
Diddlebury	104	260	-	-
East Hamlet	11	27	-	-
Eaton-under-Heywood	22	55	3	8
Greete	31	78	-	-
Halford	42	118	-	-
Heath	2	5	-	-
Hope Bagot	3	8	-	-
Hope Bowdler	2	5	-	-
Hopton Cangeford	3	7	-	-
Hopton Wafers	79	198	-	-
Ludford	72	180	-	-
Ludlow	2,530	7,481	-	-
Milson	24	59	-	-
Munslow	94	230	-	-
Nash	85	198	-	-
Neen Sollars	31	77	-	-
Onibury	74	185	-	-
Richard's Castle	73	182	-	-
Rushbury	73	183	1	2
Sibdon Carwood	8	20	-	-
Stanton Lacy	58	144	-	-
Stoke St. Milborough	22	55	-	-
Stokesay	444	1,232	-	-
Tugford	9	22	-	-
Whitton	15	37	-	-
Wheathill	5	12	-	-
Wistanstow	160	398	-	-
Totals	6,712	18,676	7	18

The new supply to Clee Hill and Knowbury, from the reservoir at Coreley, came into use during the year, thus replacing a supply which had been the subject of almost continuous complaint for a long period.

The Council houses at Clee St. Margaret were connected to the mains during 1968.

An approach was made to the East Shropshire Water Board to provide a supply to some cottages in Bitterley Lane, Angel Bank in advance of the main scheme for that area. Whilst this was agreed by the Board it is still not known when the work will be carried out.

Small schemes are proposed for Hope Bowdler, Loughton, Silvington and Wheathill and investigations of the existing supplies were made by this department.

All unsatisfactory reports on samples taken from mains supplies are notified by telephone to the Water Board concerned so that there is no delay in dealing with these matters.

Private Supplies

The number of samples (51) taken from private supplies showed a further decrease over the number taken in previous years. Only 16 were satisfactory and most of these were obtained after the carrying out of work advised by the inspectors. Ten samples were taken from areas where the East Shropshire Water Board are proposing to lay mains supplies; only 2 were satisfactory.

Fluoridation of Water Supplies

The East Shropshire Water Board decided against this in 1967, but the question was raised again when a circular was received in June from the Ministry of Health again urging the adoption of this measure at the earliest possible date. The Minister again stressed his faith in the complete safety of the fluoridation of water supplies. The Council this time voted against the measure. Previously both the Rural District and Borough Council had been in favour. We have no information about the fluoride content of the mains water supplies in the district.

Swimming Baths

Routine samples were taken from the bath in Ludlow and also from the open air bath at Cleobury Mortimer Secondary School.

	<u>No. of samples</u>	<u>Highly Satisfactory</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Ludlow	37	17	15	5
Cleobury Mortimer	24	13	10	1

The unsatisfactory samples in Ludlow resulted from the fouling of the bath by the general public.

All eight chemical samples from the Ludlow bath were satisfactory.

Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

More connections have been made to the new sewers at Burford and Church Stretton and few properties now remain to be connected. Several houses were provided with new septic tanks to replace unsatisfactory systems.

Many complaints were received during the year about drainage or effluent alleged to be causing nuisance. In some cases it was in relation to unsatisfactory conditions which had apparently been in existence for some time. This is indicative of the greater awareness of people towards bad environmental conditions.

Many areas, including some sizeable villages, remain to be sewered. In some cases where there are terraced houses with small gardens. e.g. Titterstone and Dhustone, it will be impossible for the owners, including many owner/occupiers, to improve their property unless a proper sewer is made available.

Extensions to the Sewage Works at Munslow were commenced in April, and in Craven Arms early in the year.

The Clee Hill Sewage Works are to be improved and extended but the actual plans are to some extent dependant on possible housing development in the near future.

Schemes for sewage disposal at Wall, Ludford and Linney have been deferred, as have the plans for the provision of public conveniences at Ludlow - Linney and Corve Street, Craven Arms on the A.49 Trunk Road. These deferments are not because of any doubtful Public Health need - they are purely a financial necessity.

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Standard dustbins are now in use in the Borough and it was decided that they should be required by all in the Rural District by 1st September.

It was feared that the tip at Woofferton would only have a life of 2-3 years, but fortunately it was possible to lease an extra piece of adjacent land in November. The possibility of the provision of an incinerator in a central position was examined further and consultations with surrounding Local Authorities were started.

Rodent Control and Supervision

One operative, Mr. R. Marsh, is employed to carry out the destruction of rats and mice in the area.

There is still a large part of the district where rats are resistant to Warfarin and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food still operate a 'barrier area' around the resistant area. Control of this barrier area is at present under financial review by the Government and it is not known if the free treatments and surveys that have been carried out by the Ministry will continue after the end of March, 1969. It is considered that the effect of the barrier area has been far greater than was ever expected. Only one small break through in the Council's area was reported during the year and a thorough investigation over a large area by Ministry Officials proved it to be an isolated case. I hope that the present arrangements will continue until such time as a new poison, as safe, cheap, effective and easy to use as Warfarin, is discovered. Much work is being carried out at various laboratories throughout the world to find a new poison.

Treatments at domestic premises have continued to be given free of charge.

Business and other premises have been charged 7/- per 20 minutes of treatment time. Few complaints are received about this charge which is now accepted as standard practice.

Factories and Workshops

Early in 1968 the draft of a new Bill to replace both the Factories Acts and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act was circulated to interested bodies. It is understood that such legislation, if presented to Parliament, would make the division of responsibility between Local Authority Public Health Inspectors and Her Majesty's Inspectors of Factories more clear cut than at present.

Inspections of factory sanitary accommodation and the other items affecting health and welfare were carried out mainly when visiting premises for other purposes. A complete review of the register for the new combined Ludlow district was carried out in conjunction with the Factories Inspector.

Numbers in Register:-

(a) Factories with mechanical power	108
(b) Factories without mechanical power	7
Total	<u>115</u>

Number of Inspections	24
Number of contraventions dealt with	3

<u>Particulars</u>	<u>No. of Cases in which defects were found</u>				<u>No. of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>by H.M. Inspector</u>	
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences					
Insufficient	1	1	-	2	-
Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>	2	1	-	2	-

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Number of premises so far registered	266
Number of persons employed in the premises	1,180
Number of premises receiving a general inspection during the year	76
Number of visits made during the year	213
Number of informal notices served	28

A recommended standard for lighting was introduced during the year by the Department of Employment and Productivity. The standards given are recommendations only and are relatively low, being only about three fifths of the standards recommended by the Illuminating Engineering Society.

Seven accidents were reported during the year, none of them caused by non-compliance with the Act. All were non fatal.

Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Eleven dealers were registered under the Act. No duty other than registration is carried out by the Local Authority.

The Police are responsible for other duties under the Act.

Knackers Yards

There are two yards in the district owned by one family firm. Very little work was done at Stanway. At Sparchford there is a meat sterilization plant for the production of packed pet food. The organisation deals efficiently with the removal of dead animals. All the vehicles are now radio controlled.

Conditions generally at the yards were satisfactory.

Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses registered.

Caravan Sites and Moveable dwellings

Forty one licences under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960 were in force at the 31st December, 1968.

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Holiday</u>
(a) Individual	21	12
(b) Multiple (more than 3)	-	8
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	21	20

These licences cover the siting of 497 caravans, 473 for holiday caravans and 24 for residential use.

Eight contraventions of the Act were found and dealt with informally.

Notices can be seen in various parts of the district advertising "camping" on small areas of land. Where possible the person in control of the land has been approached and the position explained to him. Whilst persons are always advised to remove such notices this advice is often ignored and constant watch has to be kept for offences under the Act.

An increased number of itinerant traders visited the area during the year. Whilst they rarely caused nuisance during their stay the amount of litter left by these persons was in some instances considerable. Prosecution under the Litter Act is impracticable as usually it cannot be proved who deposited the litter.

The need for proper sites for gipsies, tinkers and itinerant traders is obvious and has been accepted by the Government. The enforcement of the Caravan Sites Act, 1968 may in due course improve the position.

Court proceedings were commenced at the end of the year in respect of caravans on an unlicensed site at Hope Bowdler.

Market Hall, Ludlow

Improvements were made in the sanitary provisions for the stall holders who handled food.

Animal Boarding Establishments

The one in the area was found to be quite satisfactory.

Number of Informal Notices served by Public Health Inspectors

Food Hygiene	57
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	28
Drainage	17
Slaughterhouses (Hygiene etc.)	14
Means of escape in case of fire	12
House repairs	10
Caravans	8
Dangerous structures	7
Rats	7
Water Supply	5
Obstructed footpaths	4
Air pollution	3
Miscellaneous matters	62

234

Most of the notices except those served late in the year, were complied with by 31st December.

Clean Air Act

This amends the 1963 Act in some respects and gives powers to deal with the emission of grit and dust.

S E C T I O N ' D '

Housing

(a) General Statement

Number of inhabitable houses, including Council houses and business premises with living accommodation as at 1st January, 1968

8,268

Additions

Number of houses constructed during the year

1. Council houses	37
2. Private	148

Number of additional houses provided by the conversion of buildings into houses or the division of larger houses	11
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Number of houses brought back into use as a result of complying with Undertakings	20
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

216

216
8,484

Deductions

Number of houses closed	32
Number of houses demolished (Excluding 7 previously closed)	8
Lost by conversion of two or more into one	<u>5</u>

45

45
8,439

Number of inhabitable houses, including Council houses and business premises with living accommodation as at 31st December, 1968

8,439

(b) Action under the Housing Acts

The following is a summary of Statutory Action taken during 1968 regarding unfit houses.

Number of houses demolished (excluding 7 previously reported as closed).	8
--------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

Number of houses closed under the terms of Closing Orders	16
-----------------------------------------------------------	----

Number of houses closed under the terms of Undertakings given by owners	16
-------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Houses made fit and undertakings or Orders revoked	20
----------------------------------------------------	----

Number of houses at which defects were remedied after formal action under the Public Health Act.	3
--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

Informal Action

Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action 10

Number of houses made fit and Undertakings or Orders revoked (20) is a considerable increase over previous years.

Council House Improvements

The improvements to the houses at Culmington and Onibury were completed early in the year. Work progressed satisfactorily at Cross Banks and Essex Road, Church Stretton and was nearly completed by the end of the year.

Council Houses: New Houses

At Clee Hill, the eleven houses and the Old People's Dwellings were completed early in the year. Flatlets for old people at Craven Arms were started early in the year and a scheme largely for Old People's Dwellings at Henley Road, Ludlow.

By October the acquisition of pieces of land needed to widen St. Stephen's Yard had proceeded to the point when the Architect could be given instructions to proceed further with plans etc., for dwellings in Lower Galdeford - some to be modified for physically handicapped people.

The provision of these Old People's Dwellings should ultimately free many Council houses which are now under-occupied by elderly people - if indeed they can be persuaded to move.

The greatest housing need is in Ludlow and sites for further housing development are to be looked for. But even here the need would not be so great if the under occupancy of houses could be stopped.

A rent rebate scheme was introduced this year.

The Ludlow District Council Houses Tenant's Association met the Housing Rents Sub Committee and Officers to discuss the rent review, the rent rebate scheme and the present financial position. A very profitable and helpful discussion took place. It is a pity that this Association has been disbanded.

Rent Arrears

It was decided to appoint bailiffs to levy distraint on goods and personal chattels of tenants in rent arrears in certain cases - hoping that this would avoid the necessity of carrying out evictions. This has not been given long enough to evaluate this scheme properly.

S E C T I O N ' E '

Inspection & Supervision of Food Supplies

(a) Meat Inspection

There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district. The large one at Craven Arms is run by the Shropshire Fatstock Society and the smaller one in Ludlow is owned and run by a Ludlow wholesale and retail butcher.

The total kill at the two slaughterhouses was the highest ever recorded in this district. A considerable increase took place at the Ludlow slaughterhouse making it necessary for the two Public Health Inspectors who carry out the inspection to work many hours of overtime at irregular hours, usually starting at 7.30 a.m.

Working conditions at Ludlow are poor on any day with a high kill and particularly during the months of August, to December, when the cooling hall is very overcrowded. A new cooling hall was planned some considerable time ago but this has not yet been built.

In addition to carrying out the inspection work at Ludlow the Public Health Inspectors assisted with inspection work at Craven Arms during times of holidays and sickness.

Conditions at Craven Arms were generally satisfactory.

	Cattle					
	(Ex Cows)	Cows	Calves	Pigs	Sheep	Total
Numbers killed	11,474	2,781	2,266	25,394	107,785	149,700
Numbers inspected	11,474	2,781	2,266	25,394	107,785	149,700
Number inspected 1967	(11,660)	(2,004)	(5,628)	(20,811)	(95,472)	(135,575)

All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercus Bovis

Whole carcasses condemned	8	57	124	49	405
Organs or parts condemned	1,931	1,568	6	2,992	4,783
Percentage affected	16.90%	58.43%	5.74%	11.98%	4.81%

Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Organs or parts condemned	-	1	-	102	-
Percentage affected	-	0.04%	-	0.40%	-

Cysticercus Bovis Only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Organs or parts condemned	15	3	-	-	-
Percentage affected	0.13%	0.11%	-	-	-

Weight of meat condemned:-

1. on account of Tuberculosis	1,082 lbs.
2. on account of Cysticercus Bovis	977 lbs.
3. on account of other diseases	129,312 lbs.
	<hr/>
	131,371 lbs.
	<hr/>

= 58 Tons 16 Cwts 107 lbs.

The Department of Health and Social Security has asked that the following figures be included in Annual Reports

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)	(v)
Hotels, Public Houses and Guest Houses	94	94	94	94
Grocers and General Stores	66	64	65	65
Cafes and Restaurants	37	37	37	37
School Canteens and Kitchens	33	33	31	31
Village Halls, Etc.	26	24	26	26
Butchers	22	21	22	22
Clubs Etc.	16	16	16	16
Confectioners	13	13	11	11
Sweet Shops	11	11	6	6
Greengrocers	10	9	10	10
Food Factories and Wholesalers	10	10	9	9
Bakehouses	8	8	8	8
Factory Canteens	6	6	6	6
Grocers/Greengrocers	5	5	5	5
Fish and Chip Shops	4	4	4	4
Garages etc. selling ice-cream	3	3	1	1
Wet fish shops	2	2	2	2
Totals	366	360	353	353

- (i) Type of premises
- (ii) Number of premises
- (iii) Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16.
(Provision of wash-hand basin with hot and cold water)
- (iv) Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies
(Provision of sink with hot and cold water)
- (v) Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19.

All food premises were regularly inspected and were found to be generally satisfactory.

Poultry Inspection

During part of the year daily poultry inspection at The Grove was carried out by Public Health Inspectors, but this was eventually found to be unnecessary. Arrangements were then made for inspection of suspect batches to be carried out when requested by the Production Manager. This, of course, only refers to actual inspection by a Public Health Inspector. "Spotters" on the line examine every bird and reject any that are unfit or suspect. Other birds are rejected on quality control.

Whilst the kill has increased by about one seventh over the previous year the number of birds rejected increased by about one quarter. However, the percentage rejected (see table) is believed to be low compared with smaller premises where the processor cannot supervise the production of the bird from the stage of the egg to the extent of Midland Poultry Holdings.

A high hygiene standard is set at the Grove.

There is one small producer in Ludlow. Regular visits are paid.

Number of processing plants	1
Number of visits to the premises	406

Details of birds processed during the year

<u>Type</u>	<u>No. of birds Killed</u>	<u>No. of birds Rejected</u>	<u>% of birds Rejected</u>	<u>Weight Rejected</u>		
				<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Broilers	6,713,999	50,948	0.76%	59	2	81
Hens	514,950	13,006	2.53%	23	4	56
Capons	146,174	2,309	1.58%	4	12	86
Turkeys	809,727	5,580	0.69%	21	12	92
Totals	8,184,850	71,843	-	108	12	91

Condemnation of Food

The following foods were inspected and voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>lbs.</u>
Meat (Other than that rejected during routine meat inspection)			
(a) At wholesale premises	2	9	71
(b) At retail premises		1	66
Cooked meat and meat products			11
Canned Meat		1	25
Canned vegetables		3	3
Canned milk products			65
Canned fruit products			10
Canned fish			73
Canned soup			5
Fresh fish		2	55
Other Foods (Including frozen goods)		2	32
Total	3	1	80

Ice Cream

Premises at which ice-cream is manufactured or sold are registered under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Conditions are generally satisfactory. No ice-cream involving heat treatment is manufactured in the district.

Control of Dogs in Food Premises

Advice given in a recent Ministry Circular was acted upon and notices supplied to all food premises for display asking for dogs not to be taken into the premises.

Dogs are not permitted in the Market Hall on Market Days.

S E C T I O N ' F '

Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The following Notifications of Infectious Diseases were received:-

	<u>1st</u> <u>Quarter</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Quarter</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Quarter</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Quarter</u>
Scarlet Fever	2	-	2	2
Measles	2	12	7	8
Acute Pneumonia	2	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	3	-
Tuberculosis				
Respiratory	-	-	-	-
Other	-	1	-	-
Meninges	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	1	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>10</u>

The number of notifications is very low. There were no cases of food poisoning notified. A few small family outbreaks of acute gastroenteritis were investigated but no cause found. A lot of this trouble occurs in waves throughout the district, affecting both children and adults but is in most cases mild and medical attention is not sought.

Notification was received early in August that a 12 year old pupil, at a Ludlow school, had developed acute poliomyelitis when away on holiday, but must have contracted the disease in the Ludlow Rural District area. The child had never been vaccinated against poliomyelitis. In co-operation with the County Health Department, suitable measures were taken to confine any possible infection and to offer oral poliomyelitis vaccine to all her known contacts.

The possible source of infection was not traced but it occurred at the time when a few cases occurred in the Birmingham area.

Number of cases on the tuberculosis register, December, 1968

Pulmonary	68
Non-pulmonary	24

Number removed from register during the year, cured	7
Number removed from register during the year, left district	1
Number removed from register during the year, died	1
Number added to the register, came into the district	0
Number added to the register, new cases	1

Public Health (Infectious Jaundice) Regulation, 1968

This came into force on June 15th and requires medical practitioners to notify any case of Infectious Jaundice to the Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1968 In operation from 1st October, 1968

These made some changes in notification procedures and in the list of notifiable diseases, extended the powers of a Medical Officer of Health to examine persons suspected of carrying organisms capable of causing a notifiable disease.

Leptospirosis, tetanus and yellow fever are now notifiable; erysipelas, acute pneumonia, puerperal pyrexia and acute rheumatism are not notifiable.

The fee for notifications has increased to 5/-

Protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus, poliomyelitis and small pox can be given to children at Child Welfare Centres or by Family Doctors. Protection against tuberculosis is given at schools and yellow fever at the County Health Department. Protection against other diseases can be given by Family Doctors.

Measles vaccination became available for children, age 1-15 this year.

Diseases of animals transmittable to man

A bull which was taken to the Knacker's yards from a farm outside the district was found to have anthrax. None of the workers at the yard were infected.

Ten cases of salmonella infection in cattle were reported and one in guinea pigs at a breeding establishment. Only in the last case was infection found in human contacts.

Two cases of tuberculosis found in cattle were referred by Veterinary Officers but no cases were found in the human contacts.

